

on trusting FEMA to enter into competitive contracts even though there is no evidence that it has any intention of doing so.

The amendment we are offering today is only our effort to say enough is enough. Our amendment requires all Federal agencies to follow competitive bidding procedures for any Katrina-related contracts exceeding \$500,000. It is a commonsense amendment. It is a good-government amendment. Eight months after Katrina, there is no longer any emergency that justifies a no-bid contract that might have been entered into in the days after Katrina. If there is an emergency, it is getting control of how the money is being spent by FEMA.

The American people deserve the benefits of competition on Government contracts. Competition is good for American business. It is also good for government. It helps ensure high quality and low cost. That is what the American people have the right to expect. That is what our amendment seeks to deliver.

Before we spend another dollar in the gulf coast, let's make sure we have some transparency and accountability in place to ensure that Federal money is helping those people who need it the most, instead of lining the pockets of contractors. In our rush to give money to the gulf coast 8 months ago, we didn't do that. It was understandable. We were all shell-shocked by what had happened. But the American people, and more importantly the victims of Katrina, have paid a heavy price. I urge we not repeat that mistake. I urge my colleagues to support Senator COBURN and me in this effort.

Mr. President, I understand the Senator from Oklahoma does not wish to speak on the amendment, so I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

Is there further debate? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 106 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Akaka	Brownback	Cochran
Alexander	Bunning	Coleman
Allard	Burns	Collins
Allen	Burr	Conrad
Baucus	Byrd	Cornyn
Bayh	Cantwell	Craig
Bennett	Carper	Crapo
Biden	Chafee	Dayton
Bingaman	Chambliss	DeMint
Bond	Clinton	DeWine
Boxer	Coburn	Dodd

Dole	Kohl	Reid
Domenici	Kyl	Roberts
Dorgan	Landrieu	Salazar
Durbin	Lautenberg	Santorum
Ensign	Leahy	Sarbanes
Feingold	Levin	Schumer
Feinstein	Lieberman	Sessions
Frist	Lincoln	Shelby
Graham	Lott	Smith
Grassley	Lugar	Snowe
Gregg	Martinez	Specter
Hagel	McCain	Stabenow
Harkin	McConnell	Stevens
Hatch	Menendez	Sununu
Hutchison	Mikulski	Talent
Inhofe	Murkowski	Thomas
Inouye	Murray	Thune
Isakson	Nelson (FL)	Vitter
Jeffords	Nelson (NE)	Voinovich
Johnson	Obama	Warner
Kennedy	Pryor	Wyden
Kerry	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

Enzi Rockefeller

The amendment (No. 3810) was agreed to.

Mrs. MURRAY. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3641, DIVISION XII, WITHDRAWN

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment No. 3641, division XII, and I ask unanimous consent for its withdrawal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3641, DIVISION XIII, WITHDRAWN

Mr. COBURN. And I ask unanimous consent to withdraw division XIII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3641, DIVISION XIV, WITHDRAWN

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent division XIV be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3641, DIVISION XV, WITHDRAWN

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent division XV be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3541, DIVISION XVI, WITHDRAWN

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw division XVI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3641, DIVISION XVII, WITHDRAWN

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw division XVII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3641, DIVISION XVIII, WITHDRAWN

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the withdrawal of division XVIII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I withdrew amendments for things I still do not agree with that are in this bill. I am not going to spend the time in the Senate now, but I will spend the time

before we have the final vote on this bill to discuss what is in this bill that is not emergency, that is not an obligation by the Federal Government, that is not prudent or fiscally wise. I will not spend the time on that at this time.

AMENDMENT NO. 3641, DIVISION XIX

Mr. COBURN. I ask unanimous consent division XIX be brought up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAMBLISS). The measure is pending.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, this is an amendment that removes \$11.3 million from our Corps of Engineers, Sacramento River Bank Protection Project in California.

I have no lack of understanding of the potential flooding problems occurring in San Francisco and south of there in California and the way the rain patterns have changed. I am not wishing to defeat anything that will make a real difference on that.

This amendment is about a program that is 46 years old that, according to the Corps' own statement, is 95 percent complete, that we have already spent \$131 million on, that \$10.6 million is being spent this year, as we speak, on this program.

In this supplemental, they are asking for another \$11 million for this program. I don't doubt that the \$11 million will be needed. But it won't even get there under this emergency supplemental, through the Corps' own admission, until after September when the new year starts.

First of all, it does not meet the definition of "emergency," that it should meet in coming through this bill.

What does this program do? This program solves and prevents levee erosion problems while providing fish and wildlife mitigation. That is what the program does. It has been going since 1960.

We had \$6.3 million included in the energy and water appropriations bill last year and an additional \$10.96 million. The Corps also stated that \$57 million more is needed for the final completion of this project.

This says a lot about the Corps of Engineers and their ability to get things done. Although I might agree we need to eventually spend the money for this project, it certainly ought to be paid for and come out of the energy and water appropriations because the money will not get there to be utilized. They have not even spent the money appropriated on the spend-out this year.

I am not, in substance, against completing this project. It comes back to the same things we have been talking about. Is it an emergency that we do it now? And if, in fact, it is an emergency, will the money get there and make a difference? It won't.

I am asking this go through the regular process, through the energy and water appropriations, that it be authorized to the extent that the Senators from California would like to have it, and that we do it in regular order.